



Georgia Department of Driver Services

Michael Mitchell, Director
Regulatory Compliance Division



Regulatory Compliance Core Functions

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 1

Administer the laws and regulations related to the Driver Training School License Act.

*O.C.G.A. § 40-13-1, et seq.
Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-5-2*

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 2

Administer the laws and regulations related to the Georgia Driver Improvement Act (Defensive Driving).

*O.C.G.A. § 40-5-80, et seq.
Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-5-1*

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 3

Administer the laws and regulations related to the Georgia Driver Improvement Act (DUI Alcohol and Drug Use Risk Reduction).

*O.C.G.A. § 40-5-80, et seq.
Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-5-6*



Regulatory Compliance Core Functions

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 4

Administer the laws and regulations related to Georgia's Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program (ADAP).

O.C.G.A. § 20-2-142(b)(1)

Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-5-4

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 5

Administer the laws related to the Georgia Ignition Interlock Provider's Act.

O.C.G.A. § 43-12A-1, et seq.

Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-3-6

CORE RESPONSIBILITY 6

Administer the laws and regulations related to the issuance of limousine chauffeur permits.

O.C.G.A. § 46-7-85.9

Ga. Admin. Comp. Ch. 375-5-5



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

Who is required to take Risk Reduction?

- **Anyone whose driver's license or driving privileges has been suspended or revoked for a violation of Georgia's Controlled Substances Act or Driving Under the Influence is required, as a condition of reinstatement, to successfully complete a DDS-approved Risk Reduction Program and present proof thereof in the form of an original certificate of completion. See O.C.G.A. §§ 40-5-63 and 40-5-75.**
- **Anyone who pleads *nolo contendere* to misdemeanor possession of marijuana must complete a DDS-approved Risk Reduction course within 120-days and present proof thereof to the DDS to avoid a suspension. See O.C.G.A. § 40-5-75(c)(1).**

DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction



How is Georgia's risk reduction program structured?

- The Risk Reduction program moved to the Department of Driver Services from the Department of Human Resources in 2005 as a result of House Bill 501, the same law that created DDS. See O.C.G.A. § 40-16-2(a).
- As of June 30, 2009, there were **196** certified Risk Reduction programs in Georgia and **377** certified Risk Reduction instructors.



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

- Georgia's Risk Reduction program is comprised of two components: the Assessment Component and the Intervention Component.
- An offender must successfully complete both components to receive a certificate of completion.
- The Assessment Component is a 130 question comprehensive adult screening instrument used to determine the extent of an individual's alcohol and drug use and its impact on driving.
- Currently, the only assessment instrument approved by the DDS for use in the State of Georgia is the NEEDS, which is a copyrighted product of ADE, Inc.



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

- **The Intervention Component is a 20-hour course that offers therapeutic education and peer group counseling about alcohol and drug use and their effects on driving.**
- **Currently, the only intervention component approved by the DDS for use in the State of Georgia is *Prime for Life*, which is a copyrighted product of Prevention Research Institute, Inc.**
- **Online courses are not accepted by the DDS for any purpose.**



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

How much does it cost to take a Risk Reduction course?

The total cost of a Risk Reduction course is \$292.

Fees for both the Assessment and Intervention components are set by statute. In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 40-5-83(e), the fee for the Assessment Component is \$82 and the fee for the Intervention Component is \$190.

Students are also charged a workbook fee, which, as of January 1, 2010, is \$20.

DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction



Will the DDS accept a Risk Reduction course from another state?

Yes, provided however the course substantially conforms with the standards and requirements promulgated by the DDS with respect to course content. See O.C.G.A. § 40-5-83(b)(3).



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

- In accordance with O.C.G.A. § 40-5-81(b), no judicial officer, probation officer, law enforcement officer, or other officer or employee of a court shall specify, directly or indirectly, a particular driver improvement clinic or DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program which the person may or shall attend.
- However, judicial officers, probation officers, law enforcement officers, or other officers or employees of a court may furnish, upon request, the names of certified driver improvement clinics or DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Programs.
- DDS-certified Risk Reduction Programs can be found at www.dds.ga.gov.



DUI Alcohol or Drug Risk Reduction

- **It is a misdemeanor, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-5-81(c), for the owner, agent, servant, or employee of any driver improvement clinic or DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program licensed by the Department to directly or indirectly solicit business by personal solicitation on public property, by phone, or by mail.**
- **However, advertising through any form of mass media, such as newspapers, radio, television, magazines, or telephone directories by a driver improvement clinic or DUI Alcohol or Drug Use Risk Reduction Program shall not be considered a violation of O.C.G.A. § 40-5-81(c).**



Driver Improvement

Who is required to take Driver Improvement?

- **Anyone who wishes to reinstate their suspended or revoked Georgia driver's license or Georgia driving privileges for points or an offense specified in O.C.G.A. § 40-5-54. See also O.C.G.A. § 40-5-63(a)(1).**
- **Anyone who receives a Zero Points Order pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-5-57(c)(1)(C).**
- **Anyone who petitions the DDS for a Points Reduction pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 40-5-86.**
- **Anyone who wishes to receive a reduction in premiums for motor vehicle liability insurance pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 33-9-42(b).**



Driver Improvement

How is Georgia's Driver Improvement program structured?

Georgia Driver Improvement courses consist of 6 hours of classroom instruction only. Online courses are not accepted by the DDS for any purpose.

Will the DDS accept a Driver Improvement course taken in another state?

Yes, provided however the course substantially conforms with the standards and requirements promulgated by the DDS

How much does a Driver Improvement course cost?

The fee for Driver Improvement is statutorily capped at \$75, if taken for reinstatement purposes, Zero Points Order, or Points Reduction.

- DDS-certified Driver Improvement courses can be found at www.dds.ga.gov.



Ignition Interlock Devices

- Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 42-8-110, anyone who is convicted of a second or subsequent violation of O.C.G.A. § 40-6-391 within a 5-year period, as measured from arrest date to arrest date for which convictions were obtained, must have installed in each vehicle they intend to operate a certified Ignition Interlock Device for a period of 6 months following the suspension or revocation of their Georgia driver's license or driving privileges.
- Offender must report to the device provider every 30 days for monitoring. The DDS may revoke a permit if offender fails to report for monitoring or the device provider reports to the DDS that there is evidence of circumvention or tampering.
- The offender must present 6 monitoring reports at the time of reinstatement.
- Court may waive the Ignition Interlock Device requirement if it determines that such an order would create an undue "financial hardship" on the offender.
- Currently, there is no statutory authority which allows the DDS to accept out-of-state interlock monitoring reports.



678-413-8400
or
1(866) 754-3687



Senate Bill 160

Section 11 (Effective January 1, 2010)

- Any person convicted of speeding 85 MPH or more on any road or highway, or 75 MPH or more on any two-lane road or highway will be classified as a “super speeder”.
- The DDS will be responsible for administering and collecting a \$200 fee from any “super speeder”.
- Offenders that do not pay the \$200 fee within 90 days of being notified by the DDS will have their driver’s license or driving privileges suspended and be required to pay an additional \$50.